

**R05JW**

August 12, 2005

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Based on information provided by Specialty Manufacturing Company, Blue Bird Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the below listed school bus models equipped with Specialty Manufacturing 5-series electric stop arms.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b>Manufactured Dates</b>
All American	2002-2006	02-08-02 through 03-18-05
Blue Bird "Vision"	2004-2006	03-24-03 through 03-23-05
Conventional	2002-2006	02-11-02 through 03-03-05
Mini Bird	2002-2006	02-07-02 through 03-09-05
Micro Bird	2002-2006	02-19-02 through 03-15-05
TC/2000	2002-2004	02-21-02 through 03-29-03

In certain areas of the country during extremely cold weather and under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the stop arm in the open or closed positions may temporarily malfunction, causing the stop arm to open and close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section of the switch pack may not be connected in the proper manner. Stop arms with the potential defective switch have a serial number between 480380 and 627609. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

States where these temperatures and conditions can occur in the winter include:

Alaska	Kentucky	Nevada	Utah
Colorado	Maine	New Jersey	Vermont
Connecticut	Maryland	New York	Virginia
Delaware	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
District of Columbia	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Iowa	Minnesota	Oregon	Wisconsin
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island	
Indiana	Nebraska	South Dakota	
Kansas	New Mexico	Tennessee	

**If your Blue Bird school buses equipped with the Specialty Manufacturing Company's 5-series electric stop arm are not in service in one of the above listed states, the stop arm will not have to be repaired. However, if your school buses are to be driven in any of the above states, you should replace the stop arm microswitch as outlined below.**

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R05JW are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed yellow reply sheet(s).

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

If the microswitches have not already been updated in your Specialty 5-Series electric stop arm, Specialty Manufacturing will provide a service kit (free of charge) which includes instructions, mounting hardware, a service completion card, and a new switch pack that includes switches that are not as sensitive to extremely cold weather. During installation of the switch pack, the heater wiring should be inspected for proper installation.

**To receive the free service kit you should record the serial number of each stop arm along with the Blue Bird body number or VIN and contact Specialty Manufacturing Company by one of the following methods:**

Call toll free: 1-800-951-7867 ext. customer service

Go online to: [www.specmfg.com/products\\_bus\\_1.html](http://www.specmfg.com/products_bus_1.html) and select the page entitled "5-series stop-arm campaign".

Or you may contact Blue Bird Corporation Recall Administration at 478-822-2242 for assistance.

Installation of the switch pack can be completed in 12 minutes (0.2hrs). **Reimbursement for reasonable installation charges will be provided by Specialty Manufacturing after the postage paid service registration card has been filled out and returned to Specialty Manufacturing.** Blue Bird will provide reimbursement if you are not satisfied with reimbursement provided by Specialty Manufacturing Company. Parts that are removed should be discarded.

A qualified technician should perform this modification or you may contact your Blue Bird distributor for assistance

If the modification/repair directed by this notification was performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification and you have not been reimbursed by Blue Bird or Specialty Manufacturing, you should contact Specialty Manufacturing for reimbursement. You should record the stop arm serial number and have a copy of the work order/invoice available when you contact Specialty Manufacturing. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573.13 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If the remedy for this condition is not provided without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

or you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236  
or  
TTY 1-800-424-9153  
or  
Go to [http:// www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman  
Recall Administrator  
**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**